



CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
VETERANS TASK FORCE TEAM (VTF)

March 2nd, 2013 Minutes

640 N. Mesa Dr. Mesa
9am-11am

In attendance: Rory Gilbert, Chair of the Human Relations Advisory Board
Denise Heap, Vice Chair of the Human Relations Advisory Board
Barbara Allison
Mary Berumen
Doug Dau
Tom Gussie
Ken Harper
Shirley Kosisky
David Lucier
Heather McAlister
Joseph Panagakis
Andrea Arenas, Mesa City Staff
Ruth Giese, Mesa City Staff

1. Greeting and Welcoming remarks from Rory Gilbert, Chair of the Human Relations Advisory Board.

Ms. Gilbert welcomed those present and reintroduced herself to the participants.

2. Approval of minutes from the January 26th, 2013 VTF meeting.

The participants reviewed the minutes and several corrections were made including that the acronyms be replaced with the name of the organization or program.

3. Discuss and make recommendations on Short Term and Long Term Goals for VTF.

- a. What do we want to accomplish?

- Top Four Priorities
 - VTF Structure
 - Recommendation for preferential hiring of veterans- motion made by Doug Dau, Denise Heap seconded for item to be moved to HRAB for action
 - Mesa Public Schools connection
 - Central Campus/Center- proposed on MacDonald
- Other Concerns
 - Job Fair
 - Transportation for veterans
 - Information distribution- how to get information out to the public
 - Resources listed on website
 - Possible 1-800 number
 - Information listed on utility bill or insert

- b. Where do we want to put our energy?

- Communication Services- Lead: David Lucier
 - Develop list of services and contacts
 - Matrix- Will be compiled by David Lucier
 1. Compile Matrix
 2. How do we communicate it

*Supporting data is available for public review in the Diversity & Neighborhood Outreach Office,
20 E. Main St., Suite 250, Mesa, Arizona 85201 (480) 644-5034*

3. Identify gaps- figure pragmatic issues
4. Facilitate access
- Existing Programs
 - Mesa Police Department has resource for direct access to Veterans Affairs
 - Veterans Courts- short term plan in works
 - Maricopa Country Crisis Response Network
 - Housing resources
 - Mesa Police Department reintegration of veteran employees and recruiting of veterans
- Mesa Public Schools Connection- Leads: Heather McAlister, Barb Allison
 - Provide more support for active duty families and military children
 - Research to be done on existing models in other school districts
 - Different models when on a base or off a base
 - Contact to be made with superintendent and/or head psychologist when model comprised
 - Contact to be made with family support groups for list of questions to ask
- MacDonald Camps- Leads: Shirley Kosisky, Denise Heap
 - Identify what centers already exists
 - East Valley Veterans Education Center- Broadway/ Price
 - Veterans Center resource for counseling- Longmore/ Southern
 - State Department of Veterans Services
 - Site on Macdonald already identified
 - Close to planned light rail line
 - Work with Mesa United Way to determine legal aspects
 - Possible partnership
 - Possible 501(c)(3)
4. Discuss the ongoing structure of VTF.
 - Becoming own group/ entity moving forward
 - Actions to be taken outside of the Human Relations Advisory Board Strategic Plan
 - Recommendation for city's support through facilitation and administration of meetings
 - Ability to take action in the future
 - Approach Mesa United Way as a partner
 - Potential grant opportunities for funding
 - Letter of progress and recommendations to be sent to the Mayor
 - Will be drafted by Rory Gilbert with list of identified priorities
5. Closing remarks.

The task force agreed to meet again. The proposed date is Saturday, April 13th, 2013. With assistance from city staff, the date will be confirmed and task force members will be notified.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator